MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Would it be possible for the Department to supply electric power to Balaramapuram, one of the biggest weaving centres in the State?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: An estimate has already been prepared for the extension of supply to that place.

PRESIDENT: As a matter of fact I may tell the honourable members that the policy of Government is to make this industry in the South of Travancore able and fit to compete with conditions as they are likely to exist immediately after the war. It is fairly clear that the hand-loom industry, both spinning and weaving, if it is the mainstay in the provinces may not be able to withstand competition after the war, when the textile position of England and America improves. There is no doubt that the textile position of England has improved very greatly and the President of the Board of Trade, Sir Stafford Cripps, has made a statement in the House of Commons that they expect to export practically the same pre-war quantity of textiles to the Far East and India. In other words, considering that the biggest consumer of textiles is India, it is clear that England expects to recapture its old textile trade of India. Now, it is not very likely that the Constituent Assembly will meet or do anything in particular in regard to this matter as the new Government may take some time to evolve itself. Until then we must be prepared for competition and unless we organise ourselves and use all the electric power at least for weaving, confining ourselves to hand spinning, we may be in some difficulty. At one time it was considered possible that all English and American textiles would have prohibitive import duties imposed upon them. But at the present moment there are statutory and constitutional difficulties for that and therefore it is necessary to impress on the Electrical department and others that such cottage industries as weaving must be reorganised on a power basis so as to withstand post-war competition.

Electric supply for irrigation purposes.

440. *MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to state.

(*a*) whether they are aware of the demand of the inhabitants of Arattupuzha, Malakara, Edayaranmula, Poovathur, Nirvilakam and Koipuram in Tiruvalla taluk for the extension of electric supply for irrigation purposes;

(*b*) what action has been taken to meet this need; and

(*c*) whether the Government realise that the early introduction of lift irrigation in those areas will considerably improve paddy cultivation.

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under investigation.

(*c*) It can be known only after the investigation is completed.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know when the inhabitants of this place sent up representations to get electricty?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: An application for extension of supply to Nirvilakam Puncha was received about two years ago.

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MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether investigations will be completed soon and the place supplied with electricty?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: The details of the investigation are in the hands of the P. W. D.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH (*Meenachil* cum *Thodupuzha*): മീനച്ചിൽ താലൂക്കിൽ ഇലക്ട്രിസിറ്റി സപ്ലൈ ചെയ്യുന്ന കാര്യം ഗവണ്മെന്റിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAZIKKATTU JOSEPH: അതേസംബന്ധിച്ചു എന്തെങ്കിലും പ്രവർത്തിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: An estimate for the extension of supply to Palai has alredy been submitted to Government.

MR. CHAZHIKKATTU JOSEPH: അതു sanction ചെയ്യുന്നതിന് എത്ര നാൾ വേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നു പറയാൻ മയവുണ്ടാകുമോ?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: Ten to fourteen days.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN (*Nominated*): വൈക്കം താലൂക്കിൽ ഇലക്ട്രിസിറ്റി കിട്ടുന്ന കാര്യം ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: ഉണ്ട്.

MR. K. R. NARAYANAN: ഫ ഫ ഐ-ലും, ഫ ഫ വ-ലും ഇതു സാധിച്ചുതരാമെന്നു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറു പ്രോമിസ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടായിരുന്നോ?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: കാര്യമില്ല.

MR. N. D. PARAMESWARAN NAMBOODIRI (*The Travancore Jenmies-North*): According to the rules of the Department, is it not a fact that the line can be extended only on the undertaking by the cultivator that a certain proportion of the total expenditure will be paid to Government annually?

MR. P. JOSEPH JOHN: Yes, Sir.

MR. N. D. PARAMESWARAN NAMBOODIRI: May I know whether that is always practicable?

MR. K. G. KUNJUKRISHNA PILLAI (*Advocate-General*): We are going far out of the question, Sir.

PRESIDENT: That question does not arise.

Construction of a Pay Ward in the Quilon District Hospital.

441. *MR. K. A. MOHAMED (*Quilon* cum *Kottarakara*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any individual in Quilon has donated a big sum for the construction of a Pay Ward in the Quilon District Hospital;

(*b*) whether any estimate has been prepared for this work; and

(*c*) the reason for the delay of the work?

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